



THE WALKING DEAD

49



Clay 107

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

ROBERT KIRKMAN
Creator, Writer

RUS WOOTON
Letterer

CHARLIE ADLARD
Penciler, Inker, Cover

SINA GRACE
Editor

CLIFF RATHBURN
Gray Tones, Cover Colors

For Skybound Entertainment

Robert Kirkman
chief executive officer

Shawn Kirkham
director of business development

Sydney Pennington
assistant to mr. kirkham

J.J. Didde
president

Tim Daniel
digital content manager

Feldman Public Relations LA
public relations



Sina Grace
editorial director

Chad Manion
assistant to mr. grace

for International Rights inquiries,
please contact sk@skybound.com

www.skybound.com

Previously:

Tyreese is dead. Hershel is dead. Patricia is dead. Alice is dead. Billy is dead. Axel is dead. Lori is dead. Judy is dead. Rick and Carl... live on.

For Image Comics



Robert Kirkman
chief operating officer

Eric Stephenson
publisher

Kevin Yuen
digital rights coordinator

Erik Larsen
chief financial officer

Todd Martinez
sales & licensing coordinator

Tyler Shainline
production manager

Drew Gill
art director

Todd McFarlane
president

Sarah deLaine
pr & marketing coordinator

Jonathan Chan
senior production artist

Marc Silvestri
chief executive officer

Branwyn Bigglestone
accounts manager

Monica Garcia
production artist

Jim Valentino
vice-president

Emily Miller
administrative assistant

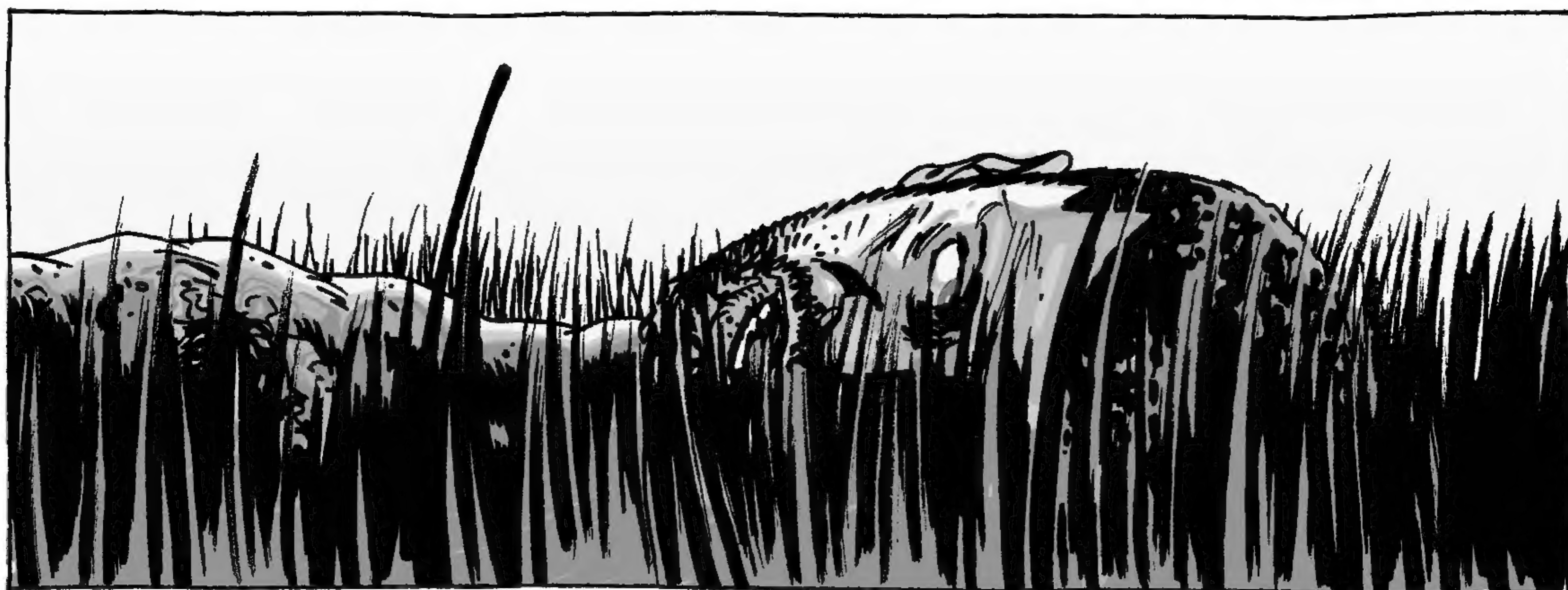
Vincent Kukua
production artist

Jamie Parreno
marketing assistant

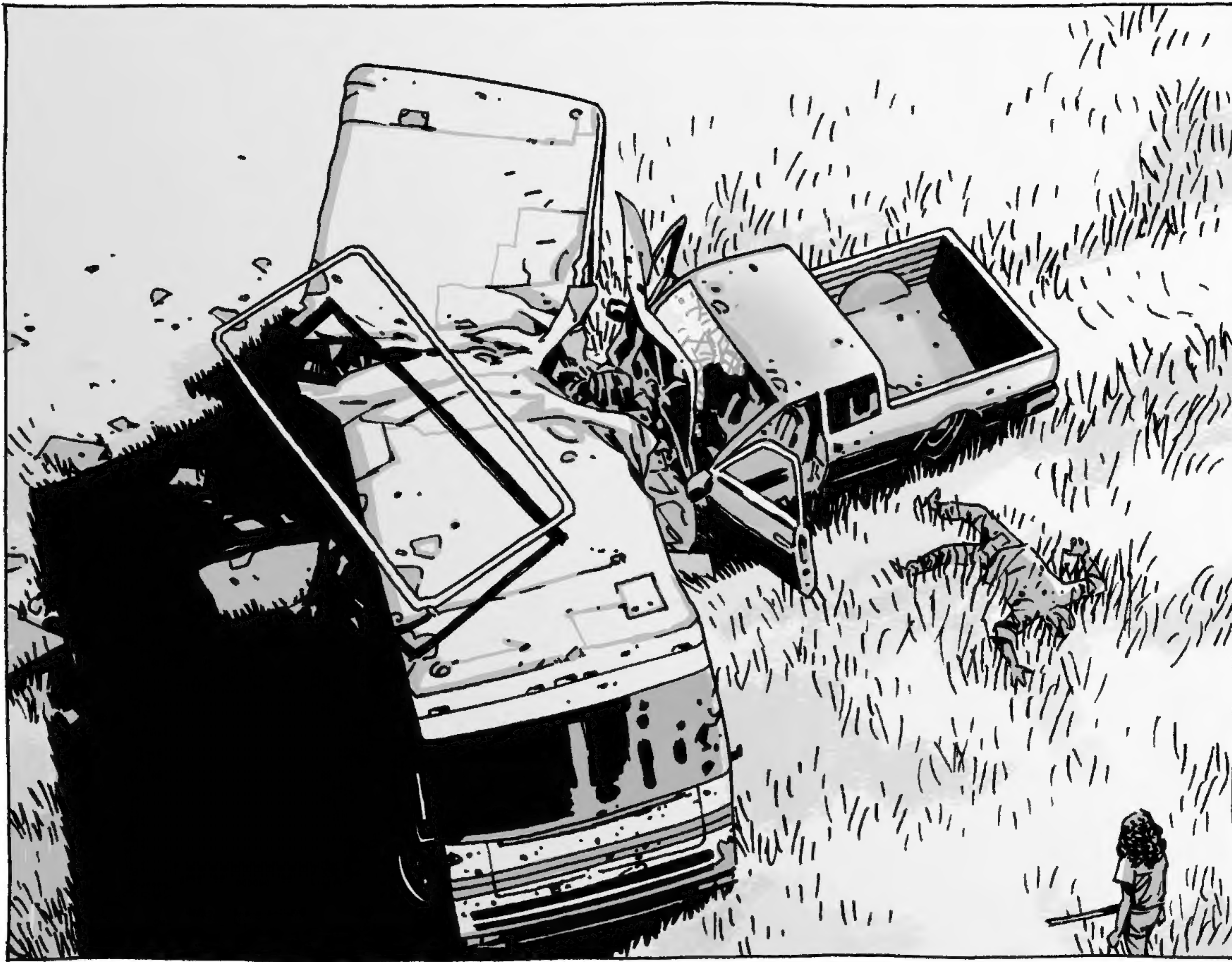
Jana Cook
production artist

www.imagecomics.com

THE WALKING DEAD WEEKLY #49. December 2011. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704. Copyright © 2011 Robert Kirkman LLC. All rights reserved. THE WALKING DEAD® (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman LLC, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks and copyrights of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living and/or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. Printed in the USA. For information regarding the CPSIA on this printed material call: 203-595-3636 and provide reference # EAST - 416338





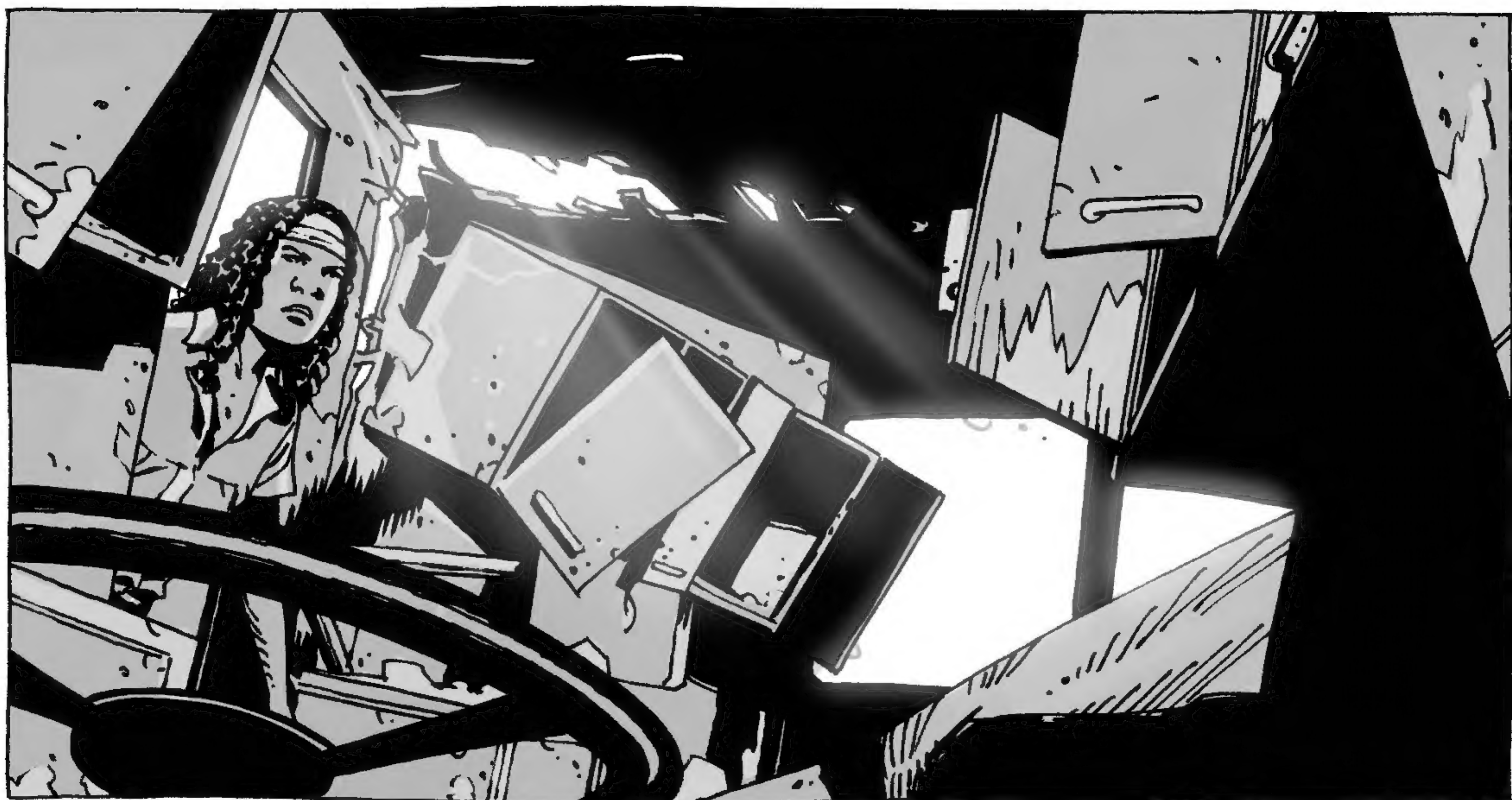


HUGHN?



GLIGNN.





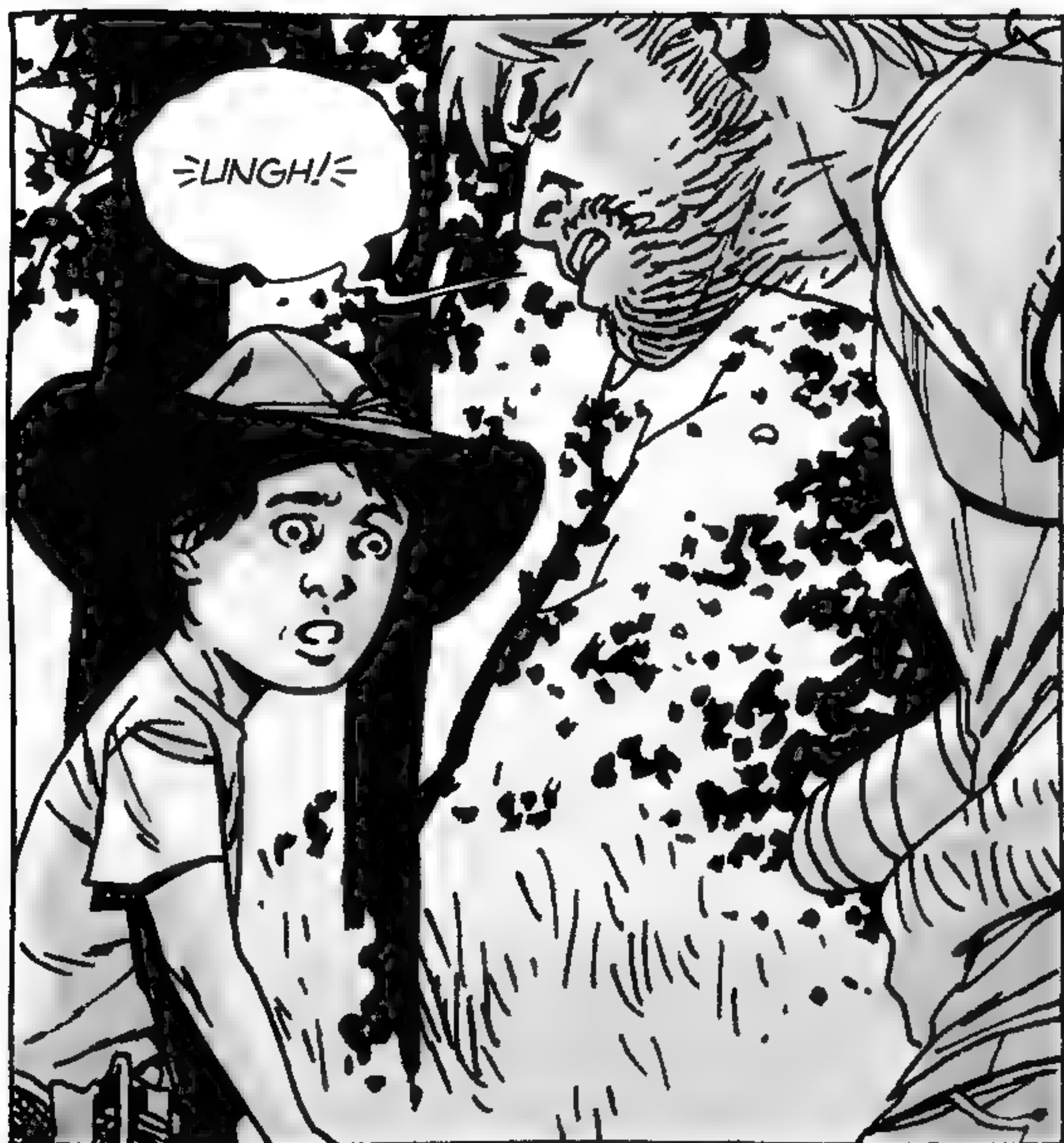




CAN
YOU OPEN
THIS?









WAIT.



THERE
MIGHT BE
ROAMERS ALL
OVER THE
PLACE.

IF WE'RE
ATTACKED--
I DON'T WANT
TO CALL THEM
ALL DOWN ON
US BY
SHOOTING
THEM.



SO DON'T USE
YOUR GUN
UNLESS YOU
HAVE TO.





RLUNGH.

GAH!



CARL!
RUN!

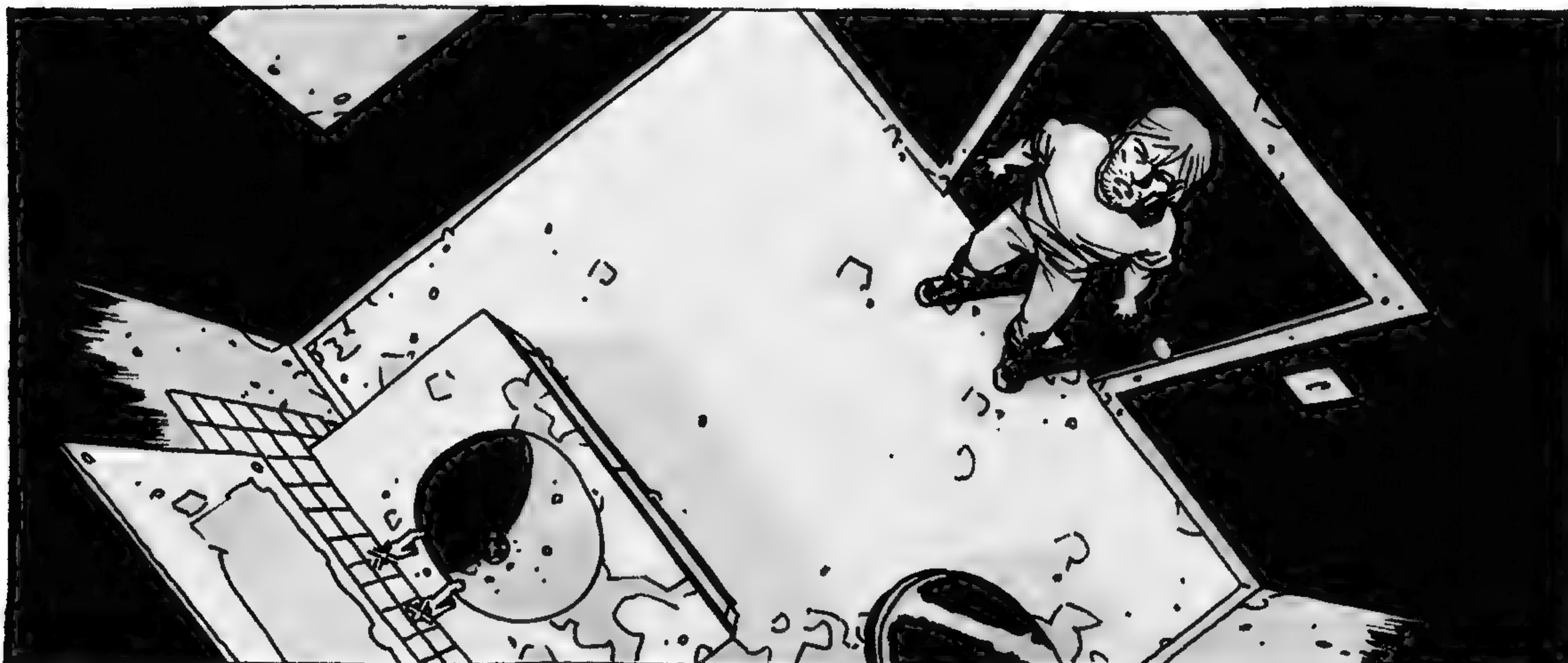
JUST
GET
OUT OF
HERE!



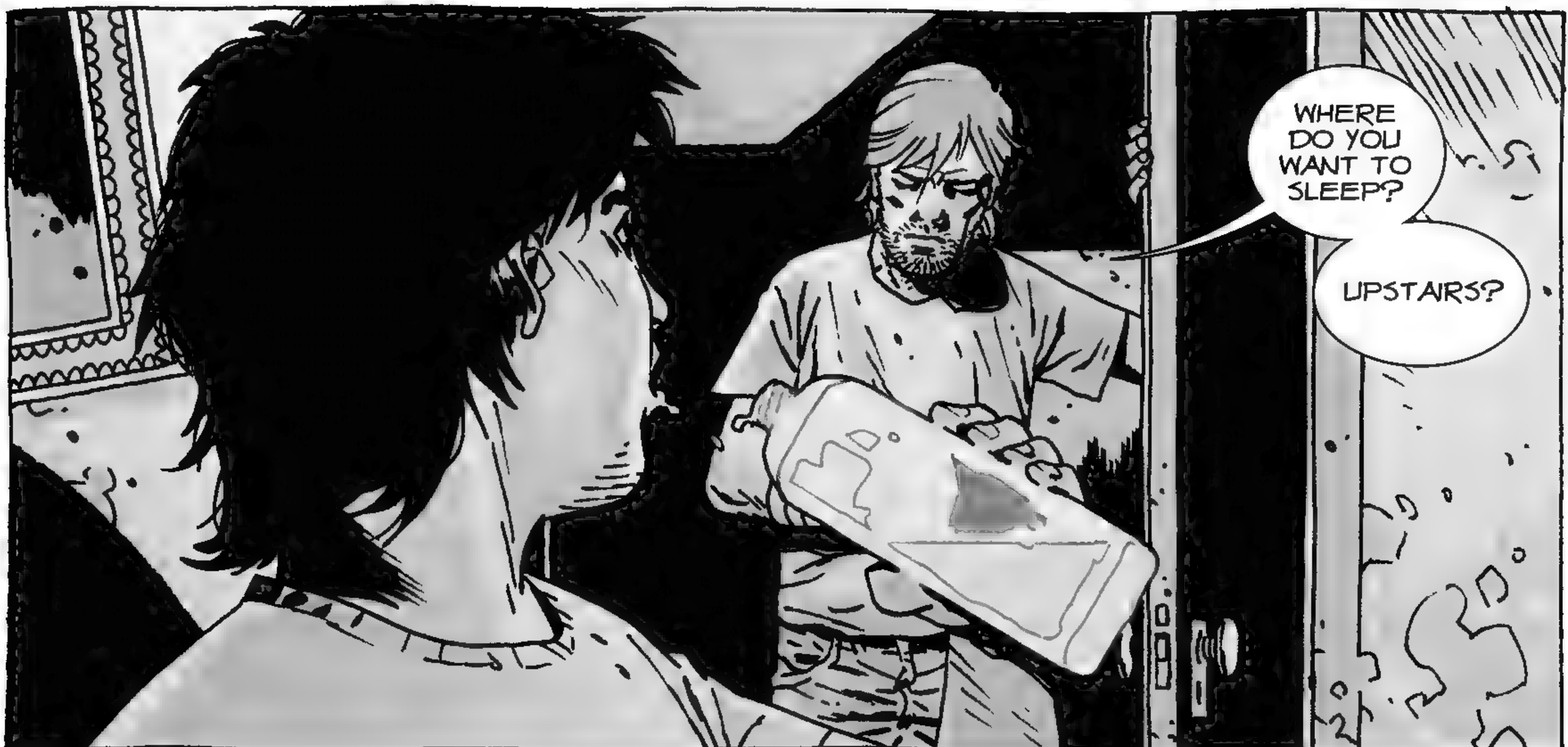
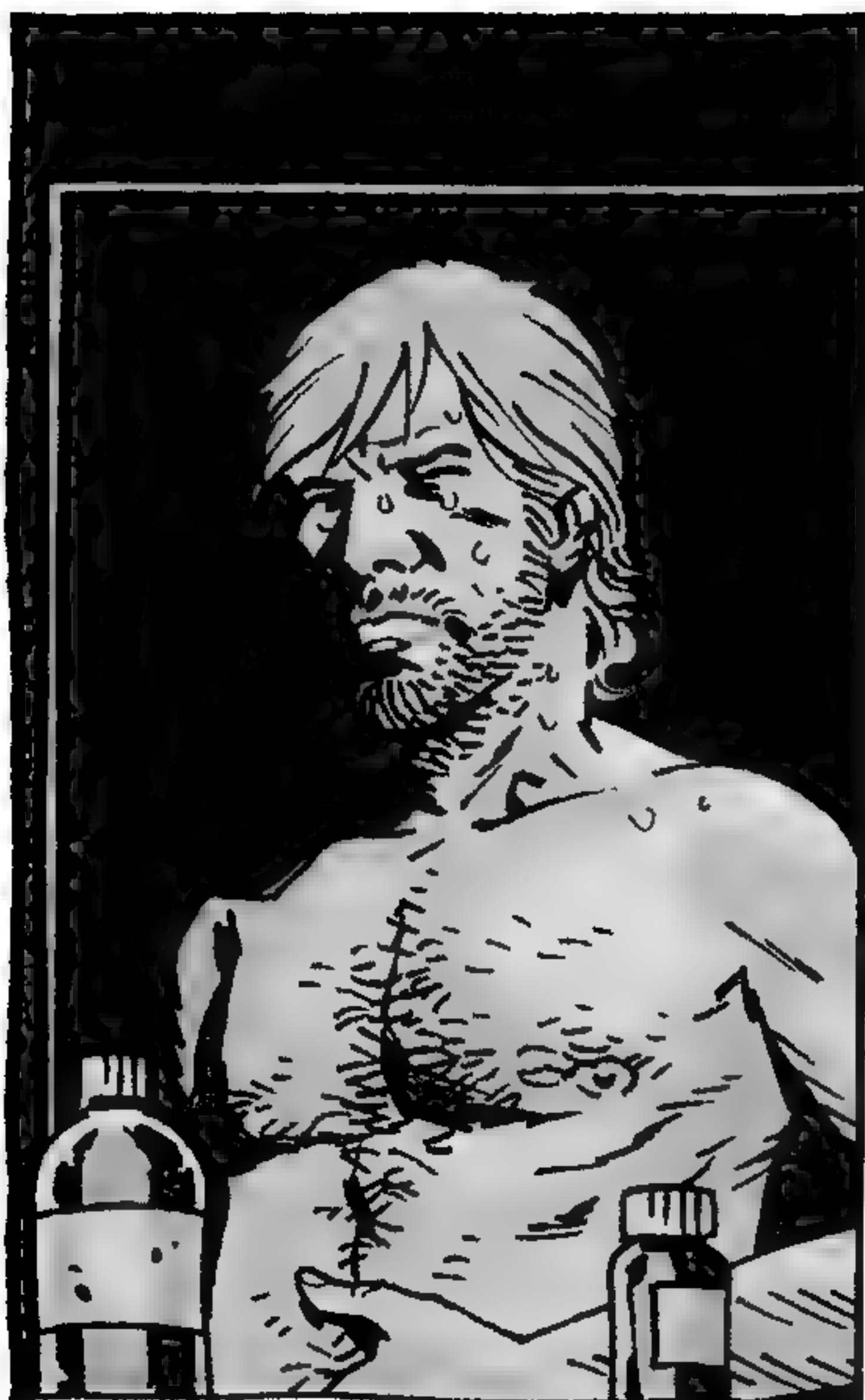


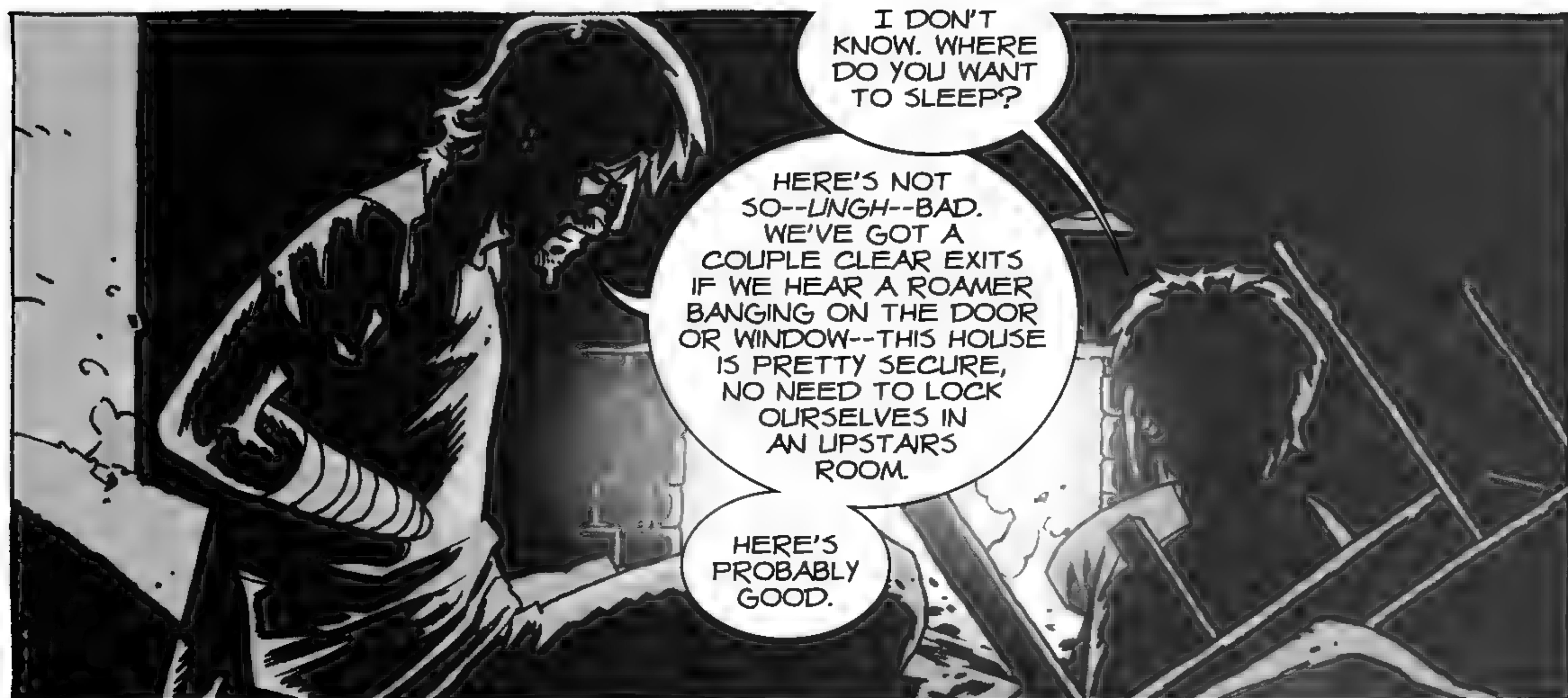








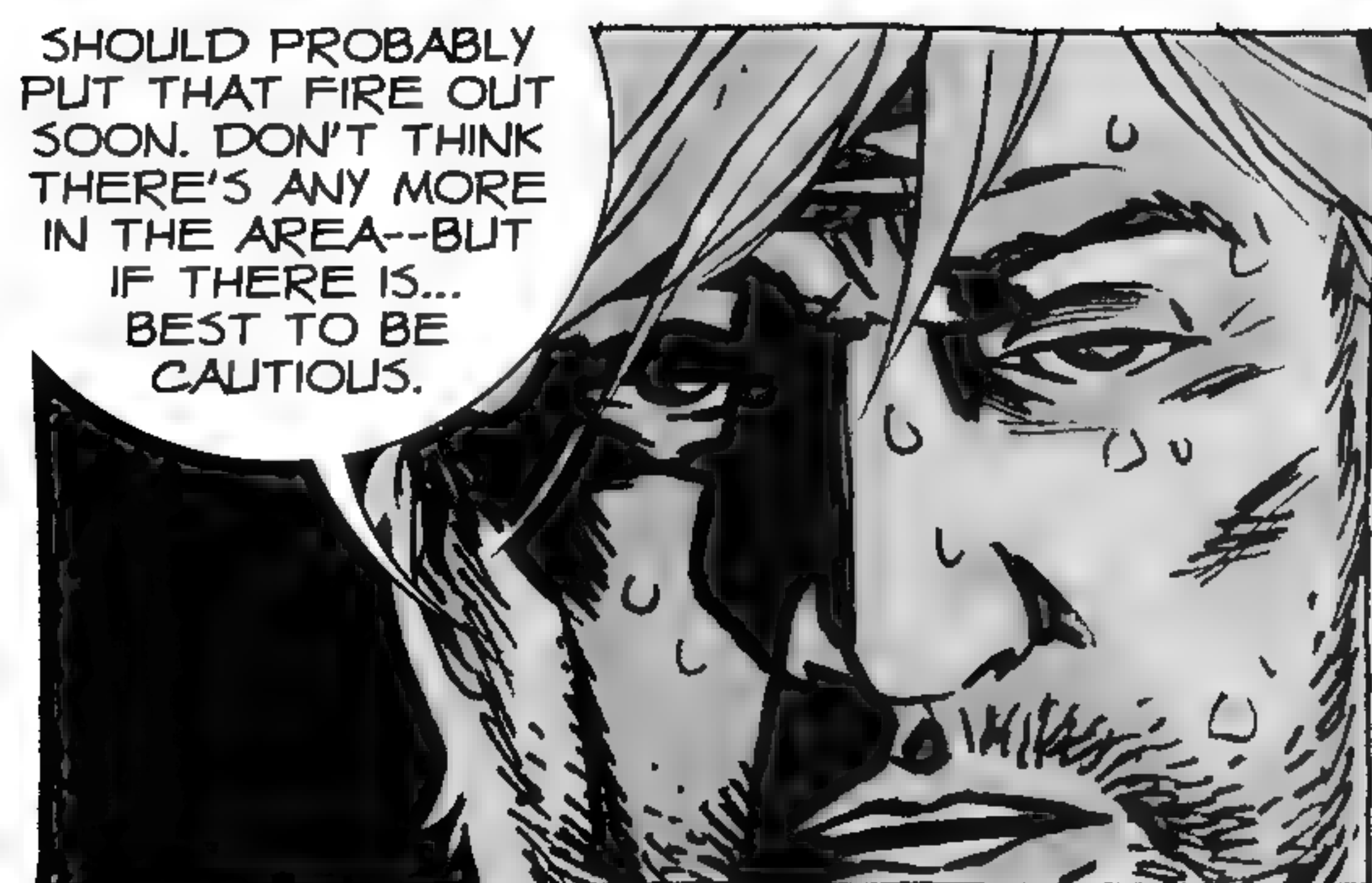




I DON'T
KNOW. WHERE
DO YOU WANT
TO SLEEP?

HERE'S NOT
SO--LINGH--BAD.
WE'VE GOT A
COUPLE CLEAR EXITS
IF WE HEAR A ROAMER
BANGING ON THE DOOR
OR WINDOW--THIS HOUSE
IS PRETTY SECURE,
NO NEED TO LOCK
OURSELVES IN
AN UPSTAIRS
ROOM.

HERE'S
PROBABLY
GOOD.



SHOULD PROBABLY
PUT THAT FIRE OUT
SOON. DON'T THINK
THERE'S ANY MORE
IN THE AREA--BUT
IF THERE IS...
BEST TO BE
CAUTIOUS.



YOU
OKAY?



I'M FINE.
COULD BE
BETTER.

I SHOULD
HAVE GOTTEN
ALICE TO GATHER
UP MORE MEDICINE
FOR ME TO BRING
WITH US... I
SHOULD HAVE...



...I
SHOULD
HAVE DONE
A LOT OF
THINGS.



SO WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?

WELL, I DON'T SEE WHY WE COULDN'T JUST STAY HERE A WHILE.

WE COULD DO A BETTER SEARCH FOR SUPPLIES IN THAT STORE NEXT DOOR... LOOK AT THOSE OTHER HOUSES IN THE AREA--PICK THE BEST ONE TO LIVE IN.

NO REASON TO KEEP MOVING.



THINK WE COULD FIND DALE AND SOPHIA... AND THE REST OF THEM?

BETTER CHANCE OF THEM FINDING US HERE THAN US FINDING THEM OUT THERE. NO TELLING WHERE THEY WENT.

ANDREA CAME BACK DURING THE FIGHT... LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS ALONE. DON'T KNOW IF SHE MADE IT... BUT THEY'RE NOT TRAVELING IN THE RV ANYMORE.



OH.

MAKES SENSE, I GUESS.





DAD!

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

Hi All!

The countdown begins to the last Weekly issue! Until then, enjoy these letters about poor Tyreese.

-Sina

Well, this issue is a bit of a change of pace from previous issues, I hope you've all enjoyed it.

Kind of crunched for time right now--so let's just jump feet first into the ol' mailbag.

Yo Kirkman,

I got into TWD about six months ago and initially thought "what the hell, it's black and white. This isn't the 20's" but after picking up issues #7-41 (#1-6 are impossible to find thusly insanely expensive), I couldn't imagine it in color. It would take away from its gritty realism. Now it's my favorite book on the shelf. I've even gotten my friend into TWD who previously scoffed anything comics.

Anyway, this is my first time writing to a letters column and I just wanted to let you know that I just finished reading issue #46 and it ... was ... AWESOME!

Not to sound like some sick bastard, Governor wannabe, but Tyreese getting his head hacked off was too cool. It was definitely worth the wait. I like Tyreese and everything but when I saw the cover I thought "he's not gonna kill him," then you did, it was real and that's what I love about the series. No one is spared. Though if anything happens to Lori, Carl or Judy as the cover of issue #47 depicts, I'm gonna be seriously pissed (I'll still read since it would drive Rick over the edge and shit would hit the TWD fan and that would be awesome) but I'll totally be mad at you.

Heh--skip issue 48!

So you, Rad-Ad and Spiff-Cliff keep up the good work and my stupid roommate and I'll keep reading the best book out there.

Oh yeah, and kill that Governor asshole.

Later,
Dave Hodge

Governor dead? Check!

Mr. Kirkman,

This is actually the first letter I've written to TWD.. or any comic for that matter, but the events of #46 forced my hand. I mean, I know this arc is called 'no one is safe' but that doesn't lessen the blow. Tyreese will be missed. He's been one of my favorite characters since he was introduced.

As brutal as it was, the thing that struck me the most was how honest the cover art was. We've all been guessing on the forums and such, but I don't think any of us really thought Tyreese would die in the issue with the cover where it looked like he was going to die. What a mindf*ck! Trick us with the truth. I love it. It just makes me nervous about #47.. poor Lori and Judy. The fence looks like it's seen better days too.

Alan

PS. Please don't kill Axel! If you must.. I hope he goes out with a bang, Uncommon Valor style. Gene Hackman kicks ass.

Yeah, the biggest casualty in the series so far--the fence! I wanted Axel's death to be pretty abrupt and final... like things would be in real life. No speech, no moment of heroism or sacrifice... just a sound and a fallen body. Probably didn't live up to what you wanted... but most deaths wouldn't in real life. Not many people really get to go out in a grand style.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

Thank you for such an incredible series. I love that TWD explores the ways in which different people react to living in a world that's drastically different from what they're used to. I've gotten so attached to the characters, and in issue 46 I realized something about Rick that I hadn't fully appreciated before--his iron will. Here he is, with a missing hand, using crutches, and yet still fully focused on survival. As the Governor hacks off Tyreese's head, the others turn their heads away or try to cover their eyes, but Rick stays facing forward and stands perfectly still. I love that his eyes are covered in shadows in that

panel-- we don't know if he's closing his eyes or if he's watching the Governor, and the shadows make him looked emotionally deadened, just for that moment. My guess is that Rick's watching the Governor-- as awful as it is, someone needs to be watching the Governor, to see what he does next.

I'm so glad that Michonne is still alive and fighting! Please, please don't kill her off for a long time! I'd really like to learn more about her past. She just fascinates me. I disagree with the fans who think that your pacing is too slow. I love all of the background information and all of the attention that you give to developing the characters.

Thanks, in return, Michonne is alive... for now.

When I saw the preview for the next issue, I yelled! Not Lori and the baby! I often gasp or exclaim out loud while I'm reading TWD, I'm just so into the story! When my husband hears me, he knows there's no fire-- I'm just devouring the latest issue of TWD. :)

Thanks for a great series-- I'll be reading it and re-reading it for years to come.

Jeanne-Marie

Thanks a lot. Maybe I'm just now noticing, or maybe things really are picking up--but the female readership seems to be growing... and that makes me happy. Ladies seem to be a bit more discerning to me when it comes to entertainment... so I take it as a huge compliment. Thanks for writing Jeanne-Marie.

So Tyreese bites it, and not even by a zombie. That's kinda' shitty. Actually, this is really upsetting. I know "no one is safe", blah, blah, blah, people die in zombie books, but to get it from a crazy cock-sucker, like the Governor (who really should be dead) is just fucked. I just hope Michonne goes all Pam Grier on his mutherfuckin' ass. Don't puss-out on this one Kirkman!

Oh, yeah, love the book. Keep writtin'.

Dave

Well, The Governor is dead now... but again, I thought it was a bit too unrealistic to have Rick or Michonne do the deed... a little too clean story-wise. I suppose I should wait until letters come in for issue 48 to reply to all this stuff...

This is a first for me. Never written to one of you funny book guys before, but you finally made me do it, you killed off Tyrese, fuck me rigid didn't think you'd do it. He'd become one of my favorite characters in the series and you offed him. After the zombie necking I guess I should of realized you weren't pulling any punches but damn. I got into your book after telling a friend who was just getting into comics about Bendis, he returned the favor by telling about some fella named Kirkman, I grabbed the first trade and was hooked, immediately getting the rest of the trades and looking into this Invincible thing and some li'l book called Battle Pope.

Congratulations sir you've created some of the best mythology anyone's come up with in years. I was even able to get my girlfriend into Dead, the first comics she's ever been interested in.

You're a worthy heir to Romero in the canons of zombie storytelling, thank you and keep up the amazing work.

-Ivan

p.s. Ignore all the whiny bastards complaints about pacing, after years of dealing with the big boys dragging shit out until the next big crossover and then letting us down with a minor character death or surprise resurrection, your willingness to kill of characters we truly feel invested in is a heart wrenching welcome, keep making me mourn.

Damn it, I wish I could go one letters column without Bendis getting mentioned. I know he spends hours scanning these things to see if his name is mentioned... it's almost the only thing he lives for these days. It's so sad. I mean, I guess if it makes the guy happy... but whatever.

As far as the pacing comments go. I do read the criticism and take it to heart but I just do what I want for the most part. It's hard to take the criticism seriously when sales are still going up.

KIRKMAN!

You sick fucker!, I didn't care much for the Governor when he was mutilated, but Tyresse? fuck me!. I had already found out about his decapitation from the kirkmania fan boards (yeah thanks for the spoiler warning "ChaosTheory" pfft) But to do it in several attempted swings and with mid-death gurgling! ewww fucking crazy! Am i right to say that he finally severed it with a kick? You're a sick sick man.

Sorry about the spoilers... I'm trying to get a handle on that place. And yes--the kick is what finally did it.

This is my second letter in a matter of days, but I couldn't help myself. Poor Tyreese! and after he did so well to survive being locked in the prison gym alone. Mind you what a fucking idiot to leave in the first place! It's a guess but I think Michonne is the one holding the gun to Lori's head (47), after they let her man die (she's fucking nuts after all). Are you preparing yourself for the mindless idiots that address racism with everything the book puts out? What's the world coming too, hey?

It hasn't happened so far... but hey--everyone is entitled to their opinion. It's not that much of a problem.

I saw Cloverfield (WATCH THIS MOVIE!) last night and someone actually complained on a website about the looting scene because the thieves were all portrayed as "black guys" tsk tsk.

I don't recall the specifics of that scene, but if EVERYONE in that place in the movie was black... they'd have a solid reason for an argument. Just like if I'd ONLY killed Black people in my book... things would be a bit more suspect.

Just keep this up man, i won't praise you because your ego might take over and you might do something stupid, like continue to write Marvel Zombies--they milked it enough already!!

Adam

That's right--THEY did. I've only done 11 issues of that series.

P.S Lori is a fittie ♥ you follow me?

If I knew what a "fittie" it I would. Isn't he a rapper?

O Kirkman! my Kirkman!

Dude, thank you so much for satisfying my craving for a realistic (or at least pseudo-realistic... if you will...) zombie story. I was getting tired of the same old stagnant, ever re-hatched zombie stories that I've been coming across in my day. I know some people dream about what it would be like to live in a zombie-infested, psycho-killer ridden society, and your comic allows us to get a taste of that from the comfort of our homes, here in reality.

What's real estate go for there?

The Walking Dead is one of the few comic series which I look forward to on a regular basis and make a point to pick up (I live in a small town in Canada... I don't have ANY place to buy comics. It's bothersome, man.. REAL bothersome. I take a 2-hour train ride to Toronto on a monthly basis in order to pick up your little two-dollar-and-ninety-nine-cent-wonder. I mean, I'll be honest, I do other stuff while I'm there, but The Walking Dead is one of the most enticing aspects of my journey!). Most of the "mainstream" (i don't really like that word, but hey, bear with me) comic stuff that I check out just doesn't do it for me.

Then stop reading it! Only buy books you like and comics as a whole will get better! The "mainstream" which, honestly, is pretty great right now for the most part--will only get better if people stop buying books out of habit. Nobody saw Batman and Robin out of habit... and what happened? Batman Begins. Think about it.

I tend to live in the past, reveling in the glory days of comic series long-since dead...(in most cases gone long before I was even born.. I'm seventeen...) but your Walking Dead evokes a kind of spirit that is missed in what is a more modern, commercial comic business.

As a side note... I REALLY appreciate the fact that there are no god-damn advertisements slapped in the middle of every other page in your books. I get enough images of Spongebob promoting his latest DVD and the Hulk telling me how great some new car is whenever I pick up a Marvel comic, thank you very much!

I'm also glad to see that the bombardment of letters labelling you as some sick racist fuck have subsided (either that or you have simply stopped publishing them..). That really pissed me off. The lengths some people will go to in order to justify claims that have absolutely no basis.. it's sickening!

They stopped, thankfully. There really never were all THAT many, though.

Anyways, you're probably getting tired of reading my ramblings, but hey, I've never written to a writer I admire before, and I sure as hell love to write (which brings me to another point.. haha.. writing is what I do, and I have often hypothesized about what a professional life as a writer would be like.. I tell ya, it's titillating! I consider myself to be somewhat of a writer, and seeing someone like you being able to compose something like the Walking Dead gives me faith!)

I guess it's about time to wrap this up..

oh wait.
no it isn't.

one final point.

the beheading of Tyreese... HOLY SHIT, MAN.
probably THE most intense collection of panels I've ever been within.. (physiologically, of course)
It was absolutely crazy, man. I loved it and hated it. I loved to hate it, and I hated to love it.

You're good at what you do, man. Keep it up, I'm lovin' it, and I'm sure a hell

of a lot of other people are too.

Christian Julien Siroyt

Thanks, man. As I type this it's 4pm on a Monday and I'm sitting at my desk in my pajamas... I haven't showered, I'm not wearing shoes... my basement is nice and cool... it's the best job in the world, sir... I totally recommend it. And at 17, if you're smart about it--you could totally pull it off.

IF MICHONE DON T SHOOT THE GOV. IN THE HEAD... I LL STILL BUY UR BOOK NO MATTER WHAT!

I know they will all DIE. It s the only thing we know in life. So keep making me scream shit like "JUST FUCKING SHOOT HIM BITCH!".

With love/hate
=PP=

Hah hah.

Mr. Kirkman,

When they killed Gwen Stacy in Amazing Spiderman #121, I was there.
When they killed Barry Allen (The Flash) in Crisis on Infinite Earths #8, I was there.
When they killed Jason Todd in " Batman A Death in the Family" I was there.
When they killed Superman, I was there.
When they killed Kid Miracleman in Miracleman #15, I was there.
When they killed Captain America in #25, I was there.
When they killed The Elongated Man in 52 #42, I was there.
When they killed Rorschach in " Watchmen #12, I was there.
When you killed Bishop in U X-men # 90, I was there.
When you killed Angstrom Levy in Invincible #33, I was there.
ect. ect. ect.

The death of Tyreese was more emotional than all of them put together. You have such a great writing style that makes you care for the cast of TWD like they were real people. Great Job.

Tyresse
R.I.P.
Walking Dead #7-#46

Erik Porter

Thank you, sir.

Kirkman, I haven't picked up a comic since the early 70s. One day a few years back I was shopping with my nephew for some Oogio cards, if that's how it's spelled, and I stumbled upon The Walking Dead and I've been hooked ever since. I love zombies.

Heh... Oogio.

Now I never thought I'd be one of those geeky fan boys standing up and talking technical issues at a SciFi con or similar forum, but here we are.

A few issues back, 44 or so, the Governor was talking about how it took his men "months" to learn to drive the "tank". First, it appears to be a Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Close enough, it is an armored vehicle, tankish to a puke civilian. It doesn't take months to learn to drive a tank or other armored vehicle. I learned how to drive a M60A3 main battle tank at Fort Knox while in the Army Reserve in the early 80s in about 30 seconds. Turn on the fuel pumps, hit the ignition, and it steers with a wheel or stick and has brake and throttle pedals. It's not like you have to practice parallel parking. You're proficient in minutes. Firing that main gun would take longer, like 10-15 minutes. Seriously, if you're familiar with assault/automatic weapons, you can shoot just about anything. Bradleys usually sport a M242 Bushmaster chain gun. Simple to load and fire.

However, if you're tooling around in an armored vehicle for months you will have serious maintenance issues. Heavy equipment requires heavy maintenance. They throw tracks, consume huge amounts of fuel and oil, need all kinds of filters, or they just quit. They're rated at hours between breakdowns. A lot of key parts wouldn't be stored at a National Guard/Reserve armory. Fill out a form, wait a few weeks. It's the military way. Just a little military vehicle FYI.

Oh, you think you know more about this stuff than I do... really... mister "Oogio?" Trust me... my research into these matters is meticulous.

A few other things have been bugging me too. Why hasn't Rick or anyone looked for a phone book, the yellow pages, to see what kind of local resources that were available, and may still be available? I'm surprised that no one has needed a pharmacy or auto parts or other common shit that we take for granted in our day to day lives. If they're staking out their claim at the prison, it would make sense rather than driving around and looking. I'd bet there are phone books in that prison. The local Southern States or other farmers co-op would be a good place to know about. Go get a load of lime and spread around your perimeter and that will slow down rotting flesh. It'll speed up the decomposition, post-haste.

Another thing, as a southerner all my life (I live in Louisville, right up the road from you), I can't imagine rotting bags of flesh lasting long in the heat. Putrification, along with the flies, and the hornets/yellow jackets, turkey buzzards, etc. would consume them rather quickly. Take a trip down I-75 to the greatest school in history, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and I bet you could get a tour of the body farm. It'll be an eye opener.

With them up and walking around and stuff--I assume I'm given a little bit of leeway on the realism. If all the zombies just rotted realistically and went away... this book wouldn't be nearly as fun. I'm just assuming whatever is making them walk around is also preserving them a little.

Any who, I love the book and look forward to each issue. I was deeply saddened to see Tyresse go this last issue. He will be missed.

Unless you're a hungry zombie, that is.

Bill Locke

Hey, thanks for writing Bill. I really appreciate the oversight. I do try my best to keep things on the up and up... but at times, things just need to be inaccurate for story purposes. Pay attention to Rick's gunshot wound... that's probably the most unrealistic thing in the book so far. At the end of the day, it's still a work of fiction--it's not more unrealistic than your average movie or television show.

Dear Cap,

Whoa, mucho shocking. That guy Tyreese musta had a thick neck, eh? I've seen Erik Larsen's cover to TWD 50...unless my eyes deceive me! I see super-heroes. One of `em looks like Rick Grimes. I doubt that you would do that with this series, though, so I don't know whether to be encouraged or not; super-heroes are the bomb, of course. It should be a good time for this book soon, cause by my math there should be about 4 issues in the next few months! Hey how about a "Spider-Man: Team-up" series!! I see no reason to keep calling them Marvel Team-Up...all it means is Spidey WON'T be in every issue, like he used to be(but I don't expect you to understand, you started reading in '90)!

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Shaw

Yeah, I can say right now that there will NEVER be superheroes in this comic. So don't let that ultra-rare variant for issue 50 fool you. It's just a fun thing we're doing for the big anniversary. It doesn't reflect the insides at all--you'll notice Tyreese and The Governor are on that cover.

Hi, hello, and Greetings from your neighbor from the north(Ohio). My name is Heath and I have been a fan of your work for the 2 short years I have been into comics. My friends, Jamie and Theresa of Packrat comics in Hilliard, Ohio recommended Walking Dead to me. Walking Dead was one of the stories that kept me going with comics(I have a problem with sticking with a hobby for more than 6 months). I'd never thought a horror comic could keep my attention, because I thought they were too hokey like the movie "Dawn of the Dead". I also enjoy Crawlspace: XXXombies pencilled by previous Walking Dead artist Tony Moore.

You mean Kieron Dwyer right? Tony only co-plotted that book... or something.

I was wondering, is there ever a thought of ending this story? I wouldn't want that to happen in the near future, but if there is, how would you end it?

Not something I'd answer in a letters column. I don't plan on ending this series any time soon.

Another thing, I think Walking Dead would be a better cable Mini-series rather than a movie, because if it were a movie, the stories details that make it would be hacked and slashed, like an Alan Moore film, and it would suck balls hard.

Thanks for the Walking Dead,
Heath Grimm

A cable mini-series would be pretty good. I love me some John Adams on HBO. HBO, are you there? Mini-series please.

Mr Kirkman,

I have just finished reading the walking dead 46 and at the same time I am watching the legion of superheroes. What do they both have in common? No african americans in the future. Well okay one or two. It seems like the white man has systematically figured out a way to eliminate us out of comics as well as television. Well your walking dead book which is based out of the city that I'm living in (Atlanta) is down to one character of color. Funny considering when I walk out the door I only see people of color. I'm wondering where all these tough white folks come from. I mean if you look at T.V. and comics African Americans are all dead, homosexual, drug addicts or prostitutes. Funny to me whatever sport we play whether it be golf or football we are leaders and if Mr. Kirkman you haven't noticed we may be putting a person of color in office. What does that mean? It means you shmuck, that we are not stupid either. I know you have a predominantly white audience but give me a break do you really believe that whites are as tough as you make them out to be? In the same passage do you really believe that African Americans are as weak as you and the media makes us out to be? It literally takes a group of racist to down one person of color. I still love the book with its closet racism but believe me when I say that we see what you and the media is doing. As always we shall overcome.

Rich

Michonne is the strongest character in the book. I killed one black person and a billion white people recently. As for Atlanta, the book takes place a great many miles from the city... and I'm willing to bet the rural areas around Atlanta are not predominantly black areas. Also, most of the people were herded into Atlanta for safety and died. Our characters are all from surrounding areas, not Atlanta. I also don't recall ever portraying black people to be stupid--but whatever, you've got a point to make, I suppose.

Tyreese's death is a testament to how important he was to the series... a great character gets a great, eventful death.

I'm not going to defend myself any more. There will be more people of color in this series... and they will eventually die... just like all the white people in the series. And the argument will continue.

Hello,

I just recently got into your book, and I've got to say it's one of the most compelling I've read, but I'm sure you're sick of hearing that. I'm always imagining how a zombie outbreak would go down here in Tokyo. Anyway, I was just wondering why wasn't Otis buried along with Carol and Allen? I noticed at the funeral for Carol there were only two burial plots. Although he was just a minor character, he seemed to have spent enough time with group to warrant a proper burial rather than being burned with the rest of the biters. He wasn't that much of a prick, was he?

Hell, they used to let him watch the kids.

Anyway, keep up the good work, sucks about Tyreese, can't wait to see what happens next.

Joey Jamir

Otis wasn't buried because he didn't have much left of him and didn't die at a time when the burying would have been easy to do. There were tons of zombies to clean up... and Otis was a zombie... Allen and Carol weren't zombies.

Dear Mr. Kirkman.

Having Just read issue 46 of The Walking Dead, I have to say, wow! Just when i think things are calming down for the characters of this book, something like this happens and i am blown away. I had to re-read the sequence detailing the execution of Tyreese four or five times. I could not believe what i was seeing and am still in a state of shock and disbelief.

Never, has a work of fiction caught me so off guard. Never.

Well done, The Walking Dead will always have a place in my heart, albeit a very dark, sinister place.

Sincerely,
Alan Marsh.

P.S. I hope Michonne guts the Governor and feeds him his remaining eye.

Sorry to disappoint you on the governor thing.

Hello,

I don't care if this gets printed or not. I would just like to say that I feel you handled Tyreese's death with class. I loved that character and I was pained to see him go as he was my favorite character besides Rick. Ironically my first letter to be printed in a book was in #46 with Tyreese bein' dead and all. So yes you made me both sad and happy in the same issue. That's why I love this book. Despite what anybody says it's flawless. Keep up the outstanding work sir.

May the dead keep walking,
Adam Davis

Yay--happiness and sadness... my bread and butter.

Kirkman,

First off, I would like to tell what an absolute great series you are writing. I was never a fan of the whole zombie genre until I read Walking Dead. I wrote them off as rehashes of great storytellers of old. Only after the insistence of a friend did I pick up Walking Dead and find this treasure trove of zombie greatness. After reading issue 46(as always great) I read your letter about taking hits on the lack of minorities in your book. A few issues ago a friend of mine wrote you about this matter. While I agree that minorities are sadly under-represented in comics as they are in any form of entertainment and literature; it is not your torch to bear. First off take a look around the comic world and how many minority superheroes can you count? This leads me to the point that Walking Dead is not a superhero book. The Walking Dead to me is the representation of what would happen in real life in the context of an apocalyptic event. People need to realize that your book only deals with a small group of people who have found each other. You are not showing an entire country filled with thousands of survivors speckled with one or two minority characters. Not to mention the fact that Michonne is the fucking RAMBO of the title! A black female is the one character who is handing out beatings like cheeseburgers at McDonalds. I hope Walking Dead continues for years to come.

P.S. Please let Michonne go straight ninja on The Governor.

Thanks Again,
Tim Saylor

Face it, folks... I love black people!

Greetings Robert,

It's writers such as yourself that give hope to writers such as myself. I left comic books 'for good' during the speculative era a decade and a half ago because, for the most part, what was on the shelves sucked. Flash covers and bloated cross-overs had bled all creativity from the entertainment medium I most loved, so I just stopped reading. Most did eventually and the rest is history.

You, sir, I think are 80% responsible for bringing me back into the fold. While I kept on reading my old stuff from the Silver age to around 1992, I had not read anything "new" since around 1993 or 94. A friend slipped me some of Brubaker's Cap re-launch and I loved it. Then I walked into a comic shop called Nostalgia Newsstand during a brief stay in North Carolina and asked the guy behind the desk to recommend me the absolute best written series out today. "That's WALKING DEAD, sir." I bought trade #1 and after reading it drove back the next day and bought every trade available at the time. That evening I started reading and did not stop until I had finished. Soon after I snagged issue #0 of INVINCIBLE and said, OK, I am already hooked and bought your stupendously huge and expensive Hardcover of the first 24 issues. I read it in one sitting (God, my ass hurt from that). Yeah, I wished I had not read #0

because I knew the big twist, but it still rocked something fierce.

Since then I have not looked back. While my starving writer budget will not allow for a huge reading list, there is no doubt WD and INVINCIBLE are my two favorites. Your writing, pacing, building of suspense and richness of characters is a thing of beauty. It's given me the kick in the ass I needed to pursue a lifelong dream and create my own comic book(s). After months of hard work I am now talking to two different publishers about two of my would be projects and it is very exciting. Even if it doesn't happen this time, it will eventually because I have found my groove. So thanks for that.

Congratulations, sir!

Now let me ask you some silly questions and make a few WD related comments.

1. I sold my trades for WD in bulk figuring I'd buy the hardcovers. Grabbed the signed V2 and V3 on sale the other day, though they were sold out of #1. The price jump from V2 to V3 was 100%! What the heck was up with that? \$30 to \$60? Did paper go up that much? Please tell me V4 is not \$120! Yowzer! Forgive me if this has been addressed before. If so, just ignore me.

The signed edition of the V2 HC was also \$60 but the price was not printed on the actual book, it was a sticker. The \$30 price was printed on the book under the sticker... it's a long story. The smaller hardcovers will always have a \$30 regular edition and \$60 signed edition.

2. There is no need to go into the origins of why the world went all zombie. That's not the central story. Ignore those who ask.

Great question!

3. People keep talking about a movie or television adaptation. A movie won't do it. Your story is far too complex for a 2 hour cliff-notes version. It would not do your work justice. Frankly, the only route I see is an HBO or Showtime series, which would allow for no pulled punches. Both networks are damned near putting porn onto their broadcast signal. The violence allowed is way beyond an MPAA sanctioned R. Ever see ROME? Good Lord. You'd be able to tell your story in all of its glory because no way could you do it on free broadcast Network television! Fact is, done right the show could run for years. But I know how difficult it is to get such deals and the politics involved. Good luck.

We have come close... but obviously haven't quite gotten there yet.

4. I think it's time you had a guest appearance from Spawn or perhaps Cerebus. Just kidding. :-)

Hah.

5. The continued killing off major characters is welcome. Have you ever considered that maybe one or two characters are so popular with readers that killing them would result in a huge drop-off of readers? That kind of thing can happen. If you killed off our fearless one-handed leader, well, good luck with that because it would be brutal. Fans at conventions would come after you with their pitch forks and torches.

Kindest regards,
Matt S.

We'll see... er.

Mr. Kirkman,

First off, let me just say, I AM a fan. Have been for a while. I've got the hardcover Invincible collections, I've liked some of your work at the big M, and I really enjoyed Walking Dead for the first couple dozen issues or so. That said, I have to inform you I'm dropping the title.

Wait a minute... you stopped liking the book after issue 24 and it took you until 46 to drop the title?!

While the death of Tyreese is part of it, let me reassure you that I'm not another ranting, raving "U R a racism!!" goon here to flip out about the minority. If his death had any special impact, it was that he was one of the few characters I still cared about in the story; his color had nothing to do with it (I'm white, anyway, and we're not allowed to call racism). What really killed the whole thing for me was your return to the cliché "the humans are worse than the monsters" hackery that I'd hoped we'd left behind with the end of the first Governor arc. The Governor character (more like caricature) was trite and lacked any redeeming qualities, but he served his purpose as a temporary distraction from the zombies (as wont as I am to admit it, they can get a little boring as antagonists). I was left with a bad taste in my mouth after that storyline for all the wrong reasons... I, like many, was rooting for Michonne to kill him after we'd put up with her repeated rape and torture long enough that it no longer had any impact, and we were left just itching for them to get out of the town and move on. You seemed to try too damned hard to make us hate him, with his feeding the helicopter crash victims to zombies, cutting off Rick's hand, then feeding the hand to his "daughter" (which we've now sunk from implied "zombie incest" to blatant, overt zombie incest as last issue featured him pulling out her teeth so he could open mouth kiss her until he vomited), and I just didn't give a damn anymore when it turned out he survived. Michonne didn't just stab him when she had to leave? Whatever.

We then get to this issue, which starts with a convoluted and insipid dead giveaway that Michonne didn't really die at the end of last issues pointless two man attack on the retreating bad guys, apexes with a drawn out beheading over some 14 panels as our heroes stand there and watch like they care less than we do at this point, and then the Governor drives off and flips out, only to have Michonne teleport (BAMF!!) next to him with an Uzi while there's two dozen people watching, and just stands there instead of shooting him. I know, that wouldn't have given us another (yawn) cliffhanger ending, but it DID deliver another helping of "I don't really care anymore."

How long she stood there--and her teleporting in is kind of left to the reader to interpret. It's a comic. You can read it like she's standing there for a month, or she could be stepping out and putting the gun to his head right away. It's all up to you.

I hope she shoots him, but they find him two issues later (when they realize she's shot him and walked off), and it turns out he just lost the other eye, and we get a few more issues of him doing something else meaningless and grotesque (maybe he'll come back and have sex with Tyreese's corpse, while Rick explains, deadpanned, that this may give Michonne time to escape). Because, really... That will drive home the point that you've given up on the book like the rest of us.

I guess things COULD be worse... Julie could have been a zombie baby.

Still reading Invincible,
Steve

Well, thanks for reading Invincible. I'm sure I don't need to say this to most of you, but I haven't "given up on the book" not by a long shot. There's a lot of very cool stuff on the horizon. The book has been darker than usual as of late (which probably didn't seem possible) but it's all about cycles, things will return back to "normal" eventually.

Mr. Kirkman,

Wow. That was one of the few times i have actually swore out loud whilst reading a comic. Tyreese's death was so unexpected that even after I'd seen the Governor kick his severed head out of the truck I was still wondering how you were going to explain his miraculous survival. Although he was one of the strongest characters i can totally understand why he was killed; now nobody seems safe and the Governor seems like even more of an irredeemable evil dickhead. I really, really want him to die, which obviously means you know how to write a good villain.

Yay!

The only problem i had with Tyreese's death was the fact that the other survivors let it happen so easily. I know the Governor told them that he had Michonne and that if anything happened to him she'd be killed, but it still seemed kind of out of character especially for Rick. Most of the survivors have known Tyreese a lot longer than Michonne and it seems to me that they like him a lot more as well. It seemed they had the perfect opportunity to put a bullet in his brain and then they could worry about trying to save Michonne.

Consider the geography. Shooting The Governor, who was armored, without hitting Tyreese and killing him yourself would have been tricky. Also, the Governor was all talk up until the moment he slammed that sword down on Tyreese for the first time. And after that, he was pretty much dead... and everyone was in shock. There's a few reasons why they reacted the way they did. The situation was far from ideal--but that's how life is.

On another note, Axel is fast becoming my favourite character. I really like the way the other characters treat him like an inconvenience that they have to put up with and the way none of them seem to trust him. I felt really sorry for him when he was basically ignored after he was shot. I'm hoping that at some point in the future he'll have a great heroic moment where he gets to prove himself. Either that or he'll betray them all and side with the governor.

Keep up the good work,

Sincerely,
Adam Pidgeon.

I do miss Axel a great deal--for what it's worth.

Hey Kirkman,

I'm long time fan of the walking dead and I'm really sad to see Tyreese go. His passing was well in line with the other characters in the series and I love how you do not give preferential or detrimental treatment to minority characters. That said, we are down to two prominent minority characters, and by the time this letter is printed there may be none left. If I'm not mistaken, the prison is somewhere near Atlanta, Georgia. The population of the state is 39% minority, and that is not reflected in your story. I think that if roughly 2/5ths of a region is affected by a zombie apocalypse are minorities, roughly 2/5ths of the survivors would be minority. I love your series, and will continue to be a fan, but give me a fucking break, we need more color in the story.

-Luis

You'll have it, sir! Scout's honor.

I doubt that you will print this, I love your comic, but I can't help but notice that the worst things to happen to your characters always seem to happen to the black people, despite that there's not many in the comic in the first place. Atlanta is 67% black (fyi). The only gay activity took place between two black males, and all the violence done to blacks are very detailed, the only oral sex is by a black woman, just saying but it's your comic, you can do what you like.

Thanks,
Titus Ashley

I see where you're coming from. Although, I don't know why you find gay activity to be counted among the worst thing to happen to a character in the book. I've gone over why Michonne was raped before. Tyreese death was explored so thoroughly, and in detail, not because he was black and I was reveling in the murder--but because, in my opinion he was the second most important character in the book... and killing him was a big deal. His death, in a lot of ways, was more shocking than Lori's death... which is quicker.

You have a valid complaint, and I do recognize it... but you are reading into things a little bit. Just the same, I will do my best to make horrible things happen to a bunch of white people before something else so graphic hits a minority character.

Kirkman!

It's been about 2 weeks since WD#46 came out. The first time I read it, I swore out loud. I never do that. I was at work , so my 4 and 5yr old kids didn't hear me. My work is my comic shop I opened a year ago, Hometown Comics in Edwardsville, IL(plug-plug). When I unload the weekly shipment for inventory before making them ready for sale, the only comic I stop what I'm doing to read is Walking Dead. I was angry after I read WD#46. I was angry at the Governor. Then I was angry at you. Then I got angry at myself for getting angry at a dadburn comic.

Seems like you might have some anger issues.

No less than twice a month, I'm introducing WD to a new reader. 100% of those new readers are on board for the long haul. Thank you for creating a compelling read that gets me going. I did want to give a shout out to my old Collinsville, IL Walmart co-worker, Ron Ford(a big WD Fan).....who STILL hasn't come by my new store. GET IN HERE, YA BASTICH!

Douglas Dial

Yeah, come on, old co-worker, Ron Ford! Get down to Douglas' store, HOMETOWN COMICS in Edwardsville, Illinois... I hear it's a totally sweet place to buy comics!

Dear zombie guy (lol)
Sorry about that, I love marvel zombies and I also love your work blah blah blah. I'm going straight to the questions, but know I love you.

I guess there's been a lot of influences on TWD, like in Invincible. I was wondering what they are, for example in invincible there is a character who resembles that guy from watchmen, and have they had an impact on TWD. I don't mean to call you a copier but the question came up in my head when I read volume 5 and saw the drawing of Rick and Glenn spotting the helicopter like in the remake of dawn of the dead.

This could be a coincidence, but I'm just asking. Anyways I love your work and I forgive you for the past few issues, the've been a little late as I've heard. I can't wait to find out who "dies" next.

Your adoring fan,
Michael Olvera

I don't readily recall the scene from the Dawn remake that you're mentioning... but y'know, I have seen that movie at least twice, and I love it--it's a GREAT movie. But just because I had people seeing a helicopter... doesn't mean I was inspired by another instance of people seeing a helicopter and decided to steal the idea. To be honest... a helicopter passing overhead was a suggestion from a fellow writer whom I won't mention for fear of sounding to name-droppy. Originally I was going to get Rick and crew to Woodbury another way, but it wasn't very action packed. This fine fellow made the suggestion in passing and I moved forward with his blessing.

My point is, things happen any number of was... and coming up with stuff is what I do for a living... it's not all that hard... and it would take me more time to watch things and steal from it than it would for me to just make things up on the fly... so that's what I do.

I could have just as easily been stealing from Fantasy Island... or that one scene in that one movie where the characters look up at the sky--I mean, how could I possibly come up with the idea of two people looking up at the sky on my own?

Dear Kirkman,

Just wanted to let you know that issue #46 was outstanding. I know you have been getting a little flak from a few people lately in the letters column because they feel there hasn't been enough action in the book recently. I used to run a role-playing game called All Flesh Must Be Eaten (I'm sure you've heard of it) with some friends of mine for about two years once a week, a continuing story, and the best game session we ever had was one where there was absolutely no action. I hadn't planned the game for that week, I had no idea what direction I wanted it to go in, and I just let the guys' characters move the story. The story just kind of created itself for the night, and it really allowed them to flesh out their characters a lot more, and we got some real development done with them. We all learned a lot about each other, our roleplaying skills, and the characters' background stories that night.

Nerds.

Anyway, back to issue #46. I loved how, throughout most of the issue, there seemed to be a real sense of security and peace, even happiness. I really liked seeing the survivors feeling comfortable, even knowing what's going on outside the prison. One thing that I was a little upset about was the ending, the death of Tyreese. He was my favorite character, and he will be missed. I don't drink, but if I did I'd have a shot in his memory. However, even though I will miss him, I must say that you really wrote a spectacular death for him. I liked how, even though he knew it would probably be his last words, he still told the others not to listen to the governor. He was a hardcore tough guy till the very end. He knew that, even though he was about to die, he would not die in vain. Now that the other survivors have seen that sick bastard kill Tyreese, they will all probably be more stoic and determined to win this battle. Oh, and let's face it, chopping off someone's head with several swings of a machete? Grotesquely awesome. Just the kind of thing someone should expect from a comic book like The Walking Dead.

I take back the nerd thing.

In closing, thank you for the great story so far, and I'm looking forward to the final battle between the governor and his militia, and Rick and the survivors. I'll just have to find a new character to be my favorite. Glen's pretty cool, but nothing bad has happened to him in a while, so I suppose he'll be zombie meat soon.

Sincerely,
Dan Haskell

Glenn is pretty awesome... but y'know... he's not even in the book right now, he could already BE dead... and he is a minority character.

P.S. I've thought about this for quite a while, but never mentioned it until now. You ever notice how, on the cover of issue #28, with the way the light is glinting off that mask, it sort of looks like Boba Fett kicking a bunch of zombie ass?

Never noticed that--but maybe that's the reason I love that cover so much. I bought that original art right away... it's one of my favorites, and I love me some Boba Fett... hmmm.

Deadwalkers,

Yay for Axel and Patricia! Way to keep on with the good stuff of life -- in the bleak Walking Dead world, you've got to grab moments of happiness when you can. I also dug Axel's "This place is my home." With a few panels and lines of dialogue, you enriched his character beyond a catchphrase; good work. Same for Billy, it was nice to see a little more of him -- he's a character I feel has sometimes just been in the background.

Lot of good it did them... sigh.

Then Tyreese. Ah, shit. I think my reactions matched Patricia's during that whole sequence. This was the guy who survived in a locked roomful of zombies by himself! I'll miss his strength, his humor, and the camaraderie he provided. I hope our gang makes a run to retrieve his body for burial.

Then Michonne -- yay! I hope she doesn't just shoot the Governor, though I doubt she would. . . she should make him (or his right-hand man there) tell the other villagers what's really been going on. Then she could let a zombie bite him, bring him back to the prison and chain him up, and everyone could poke him with sticks and stuff. How cool would it be to see Michonne reenacting her arrival at the prison, walking up with a jawless zombie Governor on a chain? Plus the other Woodbury residents could move into the prison, there'd be lots of new folks to garden and mingle with, (plus more sex partners) and everyone could live happily ever after until the aliens come. . .

That would be an entertaining book...

One nit-picky thing -- sorry Charlie! -- but there's no way the Governor could see Michonne over his shoulder with no left eye. Oops! Let me make up for that by saying I've missed Charlie's art since "The X-Files", and his work here is leaps and bounds beyond that -- just beautiful and stark and frightening.

You've missed a lot of good stuff... too much to mention here, but White Death, CodeFlesh, Rock Bottom, Astronauts in Trouble, The Establishment and Savage are a good place to start.

About the pacing -- I love it. All those "talky" zombie-less issues let me feel like I can breathe. Thank god these characters occasionally get to rest! And just when I get lulled into a quieter state -- bam! Kirkman is back with a little of the old ultra-violence. And about the black and white -- love that too.

Thanks for the zombie poop thoughts. No, really. I'm one of those readers who loves thinking about the details. I know you've said you're not going to go into why they never run out of bullets and batteries and stuff, but that's one of the things I love considering with apocalyptic fiction. What happens in a society, already suffering, when no-one alive knows how to make more light bulbs? Or when the sewer systems back up and the plumbing stops working? Or if Hershel dies and no one else really knows how to farm? "Y: The Last Man" has looked at topics like that and made it good fiction; maybe ten years from now (when maybe two years have passed for the characters?) you can explore some of the topics of long-term survival. I could imagine our gang eventually kicking themselves for blowing up the gasoline supply at the military base. You should check out the book "The World Without Us" by Alan Weisman. It's not about zombies, but could provide some cool story thoughts; it's about what might happen to the planet and all of our man-made stuff, if we were no longer here. . .

Some other things I'd like to see: crows and wild dogs picking at corpses, and some skeletons here and there. I can't remember if this has been brought up before, but if the zombies are continually rotting, wouldn't there be some skeletons by now? And no zombies with hats or glasses. I mean, if I can't keep MINE from falling off. . .

Whatever artistic decisions you make, TWD will always be the top comic on my monthly pile.

--Dexter Midnight

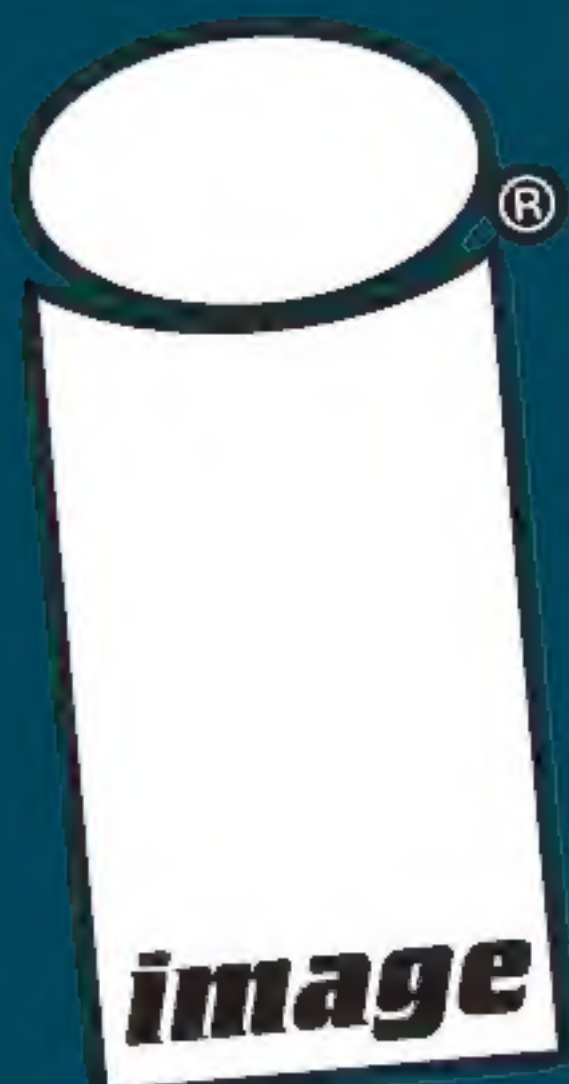
You mentioned Charlie's name in your email... so he'll be sure to read this letter... and maybe he'll take some of your suggestions to heart. I think zombies with glasses look cool. More skeletons, though... I'll see what I can do.

Okay, another one down... next up, issue 50. WOO HOO!

See you then.

-Robert Kirkman

Collecting the Eisner-winning series' 3rd & 4th story arcs
plus lots of extras in one omnivorous hardcover!



ON SALE IN DECEMBER

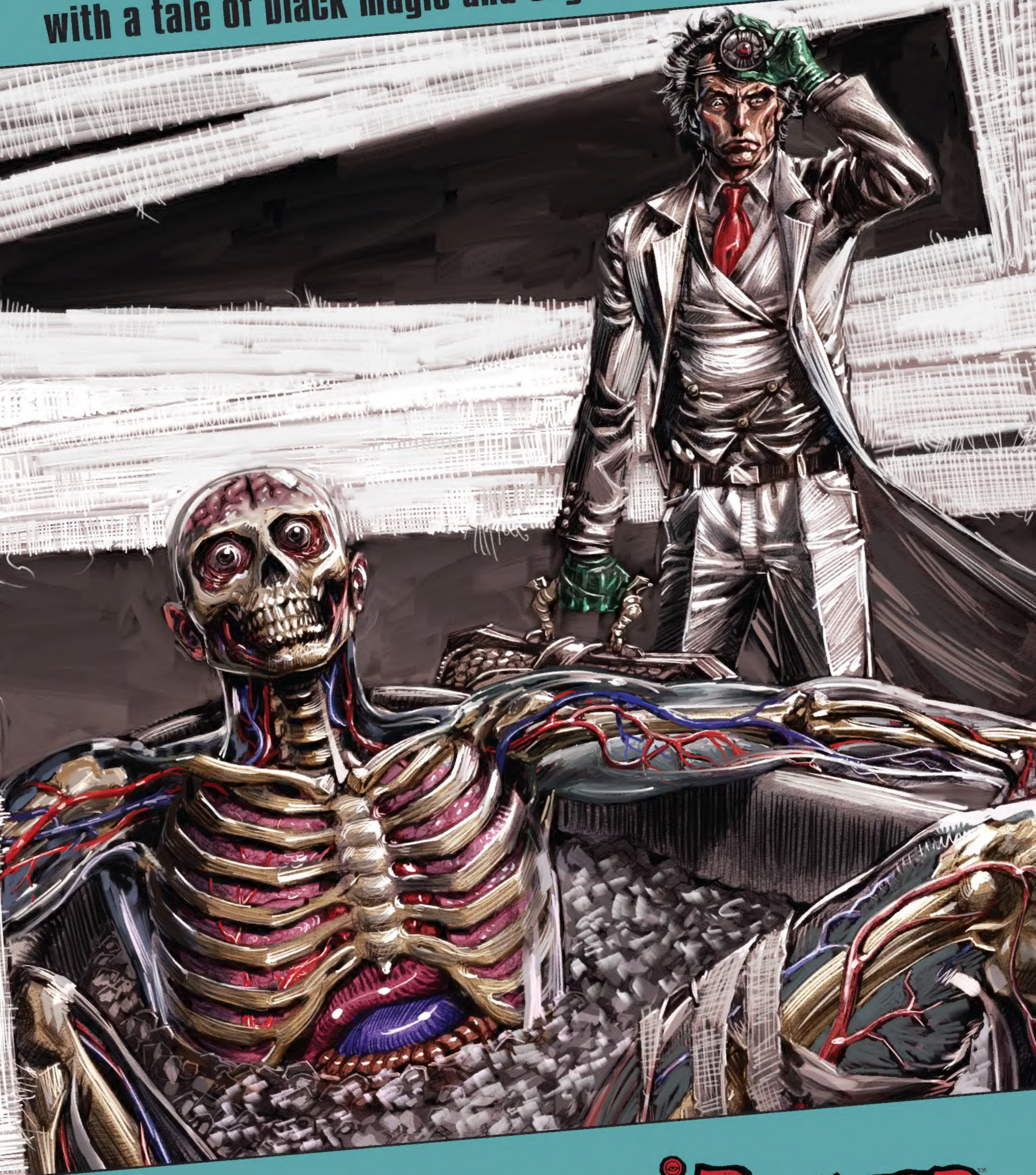
story by JOHN LAYMAN
art by ROB GUILLORY

CHEW™

The Omnivore Edition vol. 2

CHEW™ © 2011 John Layman. All rights reserved.
Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc.
WWW.IMAGECOMICS.COM

The medical horror smash hit returns
with a tale of black magic and organ-swapping!



ON SALE
DECEMBER

story by
BRANDON SEIFERT
art & cover by
LUKAS KETNER

WITCH DOCTOR

THE RESUSCITATION

SKYBOUND

Witch Doctor™ © 2011 Brandon Seifert & Lukas Ketner. All rights reserved. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc.

WWW.IMAGECOMICS.COM

He's traveled back in time to save the world
& team up with the only ally he knows he can trust: HIMSELF!



IMAGECOMICS.COM

RATED M / MATURE



ON SALE IN DECEMBER

story by ROBERT KIRKMAN
art by ROB LIEFELD

THE INFINITE™

VOLUME ONE, TRADE PAPERBACK

SKYBOUND

THE INFINITE™ © 2011 Robert Kirkman LLC & Rob Liefeld. All rights reserved.
Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc.
WWW.IMAGECOMICS.COM



EMPIRE